

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 BIB-01 ERDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00

/083 W

----- 077294

R 101635Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6592

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16157

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET JOURNAL ON MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE

1. SUMMARY. A BRIEF ARTICLE IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF
MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN', A JOURNAL GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH
THE VIEWS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DISCUSSES
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PROSPECTS FOR MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE, WITH PRIMARY EMPHASIS

ON MBFR. ITS TREATMENT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS IN STANDARD TERMS, THOUGH WITH EMPHASIS ON THE IMPROVING POLITICAL CLIMATE AS A FACTOR WHICH MAY MOVE THE TALKS FORWARD. ITS LISTING OF SOVIET "PRINCIPLED POSITIONS" IN THE TALKS ADDS NOTHING TO KNOWN SOVIET POSITIONS. THE ARTICLE ALSO RESURRECTS BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR DENUCLEARIZATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE KEKKONEN PLAN--BOTH, WE ARE CONFIDENT, PRIMARILY IF NOT ENTIRELY AS WINDOW DRESSING. FINALLY, CBM ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS RECEIVES NO MENTION AS ENTERING INTO THE SOVIET SCHEME OF THINGS FOR MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BRIEF ARTICLE (TWO AND A HALF PAGES) BY A. YEFIMOV, DWELLS PRIMARILY ON MBFR. IT ARGUES THAT THE PRESENCE OF "ONE MILLION TROOPS AND SEVEN THOUSAND NUCLEAR WARHEADS" IN THE NATO STATES IN EUROPE HAS FORCED THE WARSAW PACT TO TAKE CERTAIN MEASURES IN SELF-DEFENSE, BUT THAT RECOGNITION OF THE DANGERS OF THIS CONFRONTATION MOVED THE 24TH PARTY CONGRESS IN 1971 TO PROPOSE AS PART OF THE PARTY PROGRAM NEGOTIATIONS ON A REDUCTION OF TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

3. YEFIMOV EXPLICITLY DECLINES TO GO INTO ANY DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOLLOWING PRICIPLES APPLY:

-- ANY REDUCTIONS RESULTING FROM MBFR "MUST NOT CAUSE DAMAGE TO ANY PARTICIPANT OR GIVE ANY PARTICIPANT UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES"

--"AT THE SAME TIME, IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THESE QUESTIONS THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT."

--REDUCTIONS "SHOULD INCLUDE, IN APPROPRIATE PROPORTIONS, ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, AND SHOULD APPLY TO BOTH CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS AND NUCLEAR MISSILES (RAKETNO-YADERNOE ORUZHIE)."

-- REDUCTIONS "SHOULD NOT DISTURB THE HISTORIC POLITICAL AND MATERIAL BALANCE" OF THE AREA.

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4. YEFIMOV TAKES NOTE OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN HELSINKI THAT THE U.S. WILL DISPLAY FLEXIBILITY IN VIENNA, AND COMMENTS THAT ALMOST ALL HEADS OF STATE AT THAT SUMMIT MEETING EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF MBFR. HE EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE POLITICAL RESULTS OF CSCE WILL MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD, NOTING THAT AFTER TWO YEARS BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH EACH OTHER'S PROPOSALS TO OBIVATE FURTHER DELAY.

5. HE ALSO MENTIONS IN A FAVORABLE CONTEXT TWO RELATIVELY DORMANT SOVIET (OR SOVIET-APPROVED) PROPOSALS FOR DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE: (DENUCLEARIZATION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND THE KEKKONEN PLAN FOR A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN NORTHERN EUROPE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE CAN RECALL HAVING SEEN THE MEDITERRANEAN PROPOSAL IN PRINT IN RECENT MONTHS. THE KEKKONEN PLAN WAS BRIEFLY MENTIONED IN AN ARTICLE WRITTEN IN IZVESTIYA IN TRIBUTE TO KEKKONEN ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY SOME MONTHS AGO, BUT HAS NOT GOTTEN SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT SINCE PODGORNYY OFFERED IN HELSINKI IN OCTOBER 1974 TO GUARANTEE SUCH A PLAN. (COMMENT: WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE TWO WERE MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE PRIMARILY IF NOT SOLELY AS WINDOW-DRESSING. YURI KOSTKO, EUROPEAN SECURITY SPECIALIST AT THE IMEMO INSTITUTE, FOR EXAMPLE, ADMITTED TO AN EMBOFF DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION THAT THE KEKKONEN PLAN IS "DEAD" AS FAR AS THE SOVIET UNION IS CONCERNED, FOR THE ONLY WAY NORWAY AND SWEDEN WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A SCHEME WOULD BE IF THE SOVIET UNION DENUCLEARIZED THE KOLA PENINSULA, A STEP IT IS UNABLE EVEN TO CONTEMPLATE.)

6. FINALLY, YEFIMOV QUOTES EXCERPTS FROM THE CBM PROVISION OF THE FINAL ACT ON LESSENING OF THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN EUROPE AND ON THE NECESSITY FOR FURTHER STEPS LEADING TO COMPLETE AND GENERAL DISARMAMENT -- BUT MAKES NO MENTION OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF MILITARY MANEUVERS AS EVEN ENTERING INTO THE PRESENT SCHEME OF MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW16157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750390-1032
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751159/aaaacaom.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET JOURNAL ON MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006